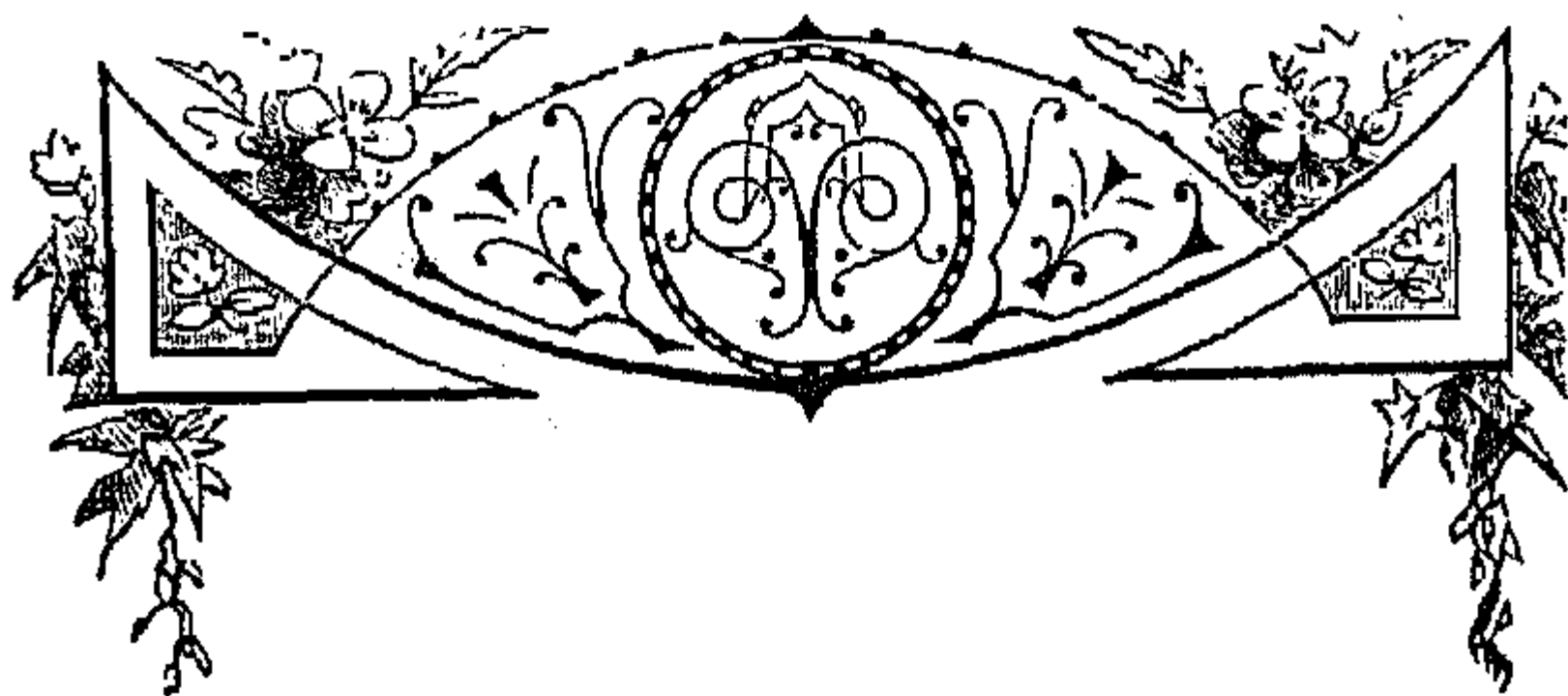


a community called ...

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“THE WRATH OF THE LAMB.”

Revelation vi, 16.

WHEN we think of a lamb we think of one of the most gentle, harmless, meek, and patient creatures in God's creation. A lamb is a creature which excites our tenderness. To be afraid of a lamb is a thing never heard of. It has no means of defending itself when attacked, no disposition to revenge itself upon those who would injure it.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is called a lamb to show his meekness and patience under suffering: “He is brought as a lamb to the slaugh-

ier, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." Isa. liii, 7.

It is true that a lamb is fearful and helpless, whereas Jesus is strong and mighty. All power in heaven and earth is his: "He is King of kings, and Lord of lords." 1 Tim. vi, 15; Rev. xix, 16. Still, when we think of Jesus as a lamb, we remember how he emptied himself of all this power and majesty when he took our nature upon him. We think of one who was "meek and lowly in heart." We remember all the kind and loving words which he said to poor sinners when he was upon earth. We think of the cruel treatment he received, the unkind words which were spoken against him, and the hard thoughts which so many had of him, and the evil names they gave him, and how gently he replied, and how patiently he bore all; and how he answered not a word when his enemies accused him, though he might have struck their lying lips dumb; and when they buffeted him, and fixed him with nails to the accursed tree, he might have destroyed them in a moment, for he had the power to

do it. And then when we think of Jesus as a lamb, we call to mind his tenderness and long-suffering and love; and how that love is shown now, even toward those who slight him and despise him. Hear his own gracious and loving words: “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest;” “Him that cometh to me I will in nowise cast out.” Matt. xi, 28; John vi, 37.

Jesus Christ is also represented as a lamb in another and a very important respect. Before he came into the world he was set forth by God himself, in sacrifices; that is, animals appointed to be slain and offered up, to represent his great sacrifice of himself, when he was offered in the sinner’s stead, to die upon the cross.

Among these sacrifices, a lamb was the animal most frequently offered. It was probably a lamb which Abel offered to God. Gen. iv. 4. It was a lamb which the children of Israel were commanded to kill, and whose blood they were to sprinkle upon their door-posts, so that the angel who was commanded to destroy the

first-born of the Egyptians might pass over them. *Exod. xii, 1-13.* A lamb was ordained to be offered, morning and evening, from the time of Moses until the death of Christ, (*Num. xxviii, 3, 4,*) when all sacrifices ceased.

And it was in reference to this that John the Baptist pointed to Jesus when he first appeared among men, saying, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" *John i, 29.*

What, then, can these words mean, "THE WRATH OF THE LAMB?" It is indeed an awful expression! O that the reader, whoever he may be, would give heed to it!

Will you turn to *Mark xv, 31,* and *Luke xxiii, 35?* See Jesus hanging on the cross. His enemies scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others, himself he cannot save." There was this Lamb of God, nailed to the cross; as man, perfectly helpless in the hands of his enemies; and in this helpless state he continued, until "he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." Yet why could he not save himself? Wondrous reason! that he might save us! As our

Surety, he had undertaken the great work of love—to die for the salvation of sinners—and he would not turn back from it till he could say, “It is finished.”

Now turn to the passage whence the title of this little paper is taken, Rev. vi, 16. Here you read of “the wrath of the Lamb.” In that day all his patience and gentleness will be swallowed up in wrath, tremendous and eternal; his helpless condition will have passed away; his wrath will be clothed with almighty power, so that all “the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bond man, and every free man, shall hide themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and” shall say “to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Yes, fellow-sinner, there is the “*day of the wrath of the Lamb.*” You shall see him in that day, for “every eye shall

see him," (Rev. i, 7;) but shall you be able to stand? Turn to 2 Thess. i, 7-9; there read that "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." Now, if you are unconverted, or, in other words, if you have not beheld the Lamb of God by faith, so as to be saved by him, here in this passage which you have just read is your character drawn to the life: "You know not God, and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Is it not time, then, to come to a point? Perhaps you may cast your eye over this paper as you have done over like appeals, or over the pages of your Bible, and lay it down, and think no more of it. Or, perhaps, it may produce a serious thought or two; and you will, as you may have often done before, determine to be more religious; and yet, before

to-morrow comes, your "goodness, like the early dew, will have passed away." Nothing but the *real* Gospel, believed, loved, obeyed through the power of the Holy Spirit, will turn your heart fully to God and to heaven. We direct you, therefore, to this Lamb of God. This Lamb, once a sacrifice, is now an Intercessor. He stands in the midst of the throne as he had been slain, (Rev. v, 6,) pointing as it were to his wounds—pleading his sacrifice, in the very presence of God—our Propitiation, our Mediator, our Advocate.

But should you go on trifling with his love, neglecting his salvation, "the accepted time, the day of salvation," will have passed away. You will then hear only of "the wrath of the Lamb." His blood will plead no longer. "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." Heb. x, 26, 27.

It will not be the Lamb in the midst of the

throne of mercy, but the Judge on “the great white throne,” from whose face earth and heaven will flee away, and there will be no place for them, (Rev. xx, 11;) and “who shall be able to stand?”



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